

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5723
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2647

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:ILO, ELAB, IS, PORG
SUBJECT: ISRAELI ASSESSMENT OF ILO DEVELOPMENTS
REF: A. STAE 80015
B. GENEVA 2630
C. CAIRO 5842

1. LABATT DISCUSSED ILO DEVELOPMENTS WITH JOEL BARROMI, DIRECTOR OF IO DIVISION, MFA, AND WITH ARIE GUREL, DIRECTOR GENERAL, MINISTRY OF LABOR. ISRAELIS REMAIN PESSIMISTIC ABOUT SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ILO. THEY CITE REPORTS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN COMMISSION ON STRATEGY AND ACTION TOWARD THE ILO, CO-CHAIRLED BY ACHMAD FACHIM OF EGYPT AND NASSAD EL MADARI OF SYRIA (NOT OTHERWISE IDENTIFIED), WHICH WILL WORK TOWARD DEFEATING ANY CHANGE OF ARTICLE 17 OF THE ILO STANDING ORDERS, AS ENDORSED BY THE GOVERNING BODY, AND WILL SEEK TO REVIVE THE ISSUE OF ISRAELI LABOR PRACTICES IN OCCUPIED AREAS. THEY ARE ALSO AWARE THAT THE AFRICANS WILL SUPPORT THE ARAB POSITION AT THE TRIPOLI AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS' CONFIDENTIAL

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2. BARROMI SAID THAT ISRAEL WILL SUBMIT A REPORT ON ITS LABOR PRACTICES IN THE ADMINISTERED AREAS TO THE ILO COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS, BUT FEARS THAT WHEN THE EXPERTS PUBLISH THEIR REPORT, THIS WILL SERVE ONLY TO REVIVE AND ENCOURAGE FURTHER ATTACKS ON ISRAEL

AT THE GENEVA ILO CONFERENCE IN JUNE. WHETHER ISRAEL WILL AGAIN ACCEPT AN EXPERT ILO MISSION TO LOOK INTO LABOR PRACTICES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WILL DEPEND ON DEVELOPMENTS AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. AT PRESENT THE ISRAELIS APPEAR RELUCTANT TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO COOPERATING IN ANY REVIVAL OF THE ISSUE.

3. LABATT NOTED U.S. INTEREST IN PRESSING THE ISSUE OF VIOLATION OF FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION BY THE U.S.S.R. AND EE COUNTRIES, AND SAID THAT IN LIGHT OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS' REVIEW OF THE SUBJECT, ISRAEL MAY BE IN A GOOD POSITION TO COLLECT TESTIMONY FROM RECENT IMMIGRANTS WHICH ITS REPRESENTATIVES COULD THEN SUBMIT TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS AT GENEVA TO REINFORCE THE REPORT OF THE EXPERTS. BARROMI AND GUREL PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THIS MATTER AND EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH THE U.S.

4. ISRAELIS CONTINUE TO ASK WHETHER THE U.S. WILL WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO, AND MUSE THAT IF WE DO THEY MAY HAVE TO FOLLOW SUIT. LABATT SAID THAT THE MATTER CONTINUES TO BE EXAMINED BY THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE ON ILO AND MUCH WILL DEPEND ON THE OUTCOME OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND THE TEST OF SOLIDARITY OF WESTERN DELEGATES.
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